

Throughout the past 11 years, Laurin Groover, a native of Florence, South Carolina, has done just that by working to improve the lives of countless citizens of the second district of South Carolina.

After graduating from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, Laurin began work in Washington as a staff assistant with my predecessor, the late Chairman Floyd Spence. Due to her extensive knowledge of military issues and strong work ethic, Laurin has quickly risen through the ranks on Capitol Hill. As Legislative Director in the office, she has been instrumental in protecting America's and South Carolina's military installations and helping American men and women in uniform win the war on Terrorism.

Although I am sad to announce that Laurin is leaving the Hill, I am happy to recognize her opportunity as a consultant with the American Business Development Group.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

VICTIMIZING THE VICTIMS (AGAIN)

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration's inability to deal with natural disasters was demonstrated once again yesterday when the President's buddies at FEMA sent Thanksgiving greetings to the Katrina victims: "Hit the streets in two weeks." The same "compassionate conservatism" demonstrated during the botched rescue is now being repeated in the aftermath.

In addition to victimizing the victims again, this will leave cities across Texas with a sudden increase in the homeless population; cities like Austin that are still owed over \$2 million in what the Federal Government promised to pay for the Katrina disaster. While giving evacuees only two weeks to leave, FEMA took three weeks to issue the October 24 press announcement.

Mr. President, I understand your desperation for the distraction offered by foreign travel, but is it not time for you to get home and address one of the many failures of this Administration for Americans?

HOME OWNERSHIP AND GROWING ECONOMY—GOOD NEWS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our economy is continuing its move up, with the housing market in the driver's seat. Since the 1990s, the housing market has been on the rise, and last quarter this increase was even bigger, reaching record-breaking growth. This is good news and something that we all should applaud.

Mr. Speaker, this housing boom should be creating a lot of news, and

there are a few facts that you may not have seen in your morning paper. New homeowners have been able to build hundreds of billions of dollars in equity in ownership. Consumer spending has increased, putting more and more dollars back into our economy. New jobs, that is an increase in jobs, has occurred in each of the last 25 months. And, of course, the increased rate of homeownership to record levels have helped millions of Americans realize the American dream.

With a stronger economy and an increase in jobs, the trend of continuous economic growth should only grow stronger in the months ahead. As we approach Thanksgiving, we should all give thanks for the incredible opportunities we have in our Nation, opportunities that give every American greater hope and optimism about their future.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, this year the President of the United States, George W. Bush, raised the issue and started the great debate on Social Security. The American public learned that our Social Security system is in trouble, and they know that if we do not do something, we are going to be facing a crisis.

You can debate when that crisis is going to happen, but no one now will doubt that there is a crisis. I believe we can dream a dream for an America in which everyone can have a living amount of money that they can retire on. Right now, if Social Security is all you have got, you are in trouble. It is time for us to continue this debate.

It is time for us on both sides of the aisle to come to the table and address Social Security and come up with solutions which will increase the amount of available income to our retirees and to our elderly, so that all people in America can live the American Dream, both now and when they reach their golden years. Let us not stop the debate on Social Security. Let us continue to look at this important issue.

TORTURE AMENDMENT

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is said that actions speak louder than words, but our reputation depends on both. Fair or not, for people around the world, the actions of a few Americans at Abu Ghraib have left a stain on America's reputation and have made it harder for us to win the war against global jihadists. Erasing that stain and protecting our soldiers will take both respectable actions and credible words.

I applaud the Senate for twice voting, once by a 90-9 tally and again by voice vote, to set clear guidelines for interrogating prisoners and to prohibit techniques that do not meet Army regulations in the Geneva Conventions. Making that the law will give credibility to our words about our conduct.

If anyone knows about torture, it is the senior Senator from Arizona. What does he say? Senator McCain says the idea America could use torture is killing us. He says torture does not work. It yields answers, but not necessarily the truth. That is wrong, because as Senator McCain says, our men and women in uniform are always, always Americans and different, better, and stronger than those who would destroy us.

Mr. Speaker, our troops need clear guidelines, and the Senate amendment provides just that. The House should take a stand and pass this important amendment.

JEFFREY WADSWORTH

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth on his induction into the National Academy of Engineering. Election to the academy is among the highest distinctions that the engineering profession can bestow. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Dr. Wadsworth is a world-renowned metallurgist. He became a United States citizen and has had a distinguished career at Lockheed, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and Battelle Memorial Institute. He has devoted himself to finding ways of using science and technology to improve our Nation, compiling a stellar record of contributions and earning numerous awards.

Since 2003, Dr. Wadsworth has been the director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Under his leadership, the lab has continued as one of the world's premier research institutions for material sciences and energy research. Dr. Wadsworth was elected to the academy in recognition of his research and leadership in national defense and science programs.

Congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth on his induction into the National Academy of Engineering and his service to Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Jeff, thank you for your many contributions.

GOP BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to tell my constituents and the American people that the raid is still in progress. The House